

## **Interpreting the UST Rows**

Users are often confused by what appear to be duplicate offenses in the UST. If a user does not need to distinguish between different variations of an offense because of modifications or enhanced penalties, or if he is able to apply business rules to make the adjustments needed based on these classifications, then he may be able to use just the Base Offenses rather than the full UST table.

Each row in the full UST is uniquely identified by a combination of the Base\_Key and Extended\_Key.

The Type, Class, or VCC for a particular offense may vary depending on its mod indicator, enhanced penalty, and whether this is a repeat violation.

A Base\_Key is assigned to every unique offense in the UST. If a record in the UST has a different Base\_Key, Start\_Date, and End\_Date then the description (DESC) should be at least slightly different because it refers to a different offense.

Mod\_Ind contains a value to distinguish various modifications to the base offense (i.e. Base Offense, Attempted, Accessory Before the Fact, Conspiracy, Solicitation of Juvenile, Principal 2<sup>nd</sup>, or Solicitation).

EP\_Code\_Cite contains an enhanced penalty code cite if one is applicable.

TYPE identifies whether an offense is a Felony, Misdemeanor, or Civil offense.

A two-digit Extended\_Key is assigned to uniquely identify every possible variation of a Base Offense based on a valid combination of Mod\_Ind, and EP\_Code\_Cite. After accounting for differences in Mod\_ind and EP\_Code\_Cite, there are still some offenses with Extended\_Key of “17” or “18” for enhanced penalty 18.2-104, which appear to be duplicates. Extended Key “17” applies when 18.2-104 is applied for a second offense (misdemeanors) and Extended Key “18” applies when 18.2-104 is applied for a third offense (felonies).

To summarize, a record in the UST can be uniquely identified either by a combination of Base\_Key + Extended\_Key or by a combination of Base\_Key + Mod\_Ind + EP\_Code\_Cite + Type.